REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification was objected to by the examiner. On page 8, line 15, "mergiing" has been changed to "merging". Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1- 18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 9, and 17. Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended to include the limitations from cancelled claims 6, 13, and 18 respectively. Applicant asserts that no new subject matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,687,235 ("Perlman"). To the extent that the rejection still applies, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. Regarding the rejection of amended claims 1 and 9, Examiner asserts that Perlman teaches a method for merging data from a plurality of CRLs spanning from the latest owned CRL to a current CRL. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Perlman teaches a method whereby the server submits a timestamp to a revocation service (RS). The RS then queries the CRL database to find all entries that exist after that timestamp. (*See, e.g.,* Perlman col. 8 ll. 56-67; col. 9 ll. 1-10). As a result of the query, a single file is created that contains the changes made between the current CRL and the CRL of the server. As there is only one such file that is created, and manipulated, Perlman does not teach merging a *plurality* of delta CRLs.

Also, while Perlman discloses a method for sending incremental changes made to the CRL, upon receiving these changes, "the server node continually appends the contents of each successive incremental CRL to attain the current CRL." (*See, e.g.,* Perlman col. 9 ll. 26-28). As appending the incremental changes are appended to the CRL on a continual basis, it does not teach merging a plurality of delta CRLs. A merging process is done at a single moment in time; it is *not* a continuous process.

Additionally, the Examiner cited claim 11 of Perlman in order to support the rejection. Claim 11 discusses merging the optimal CRL with the outdated CRL that currently exists in the server. An outdated CRL is not a delta CRL as asserted by the Examiner. Specifically, the outdated CRL contains all of the unexpired certificates that should not be honored up to "a latest certificate revocation date of the certificates included in the CRL presently retained by the server node." (*See, e.g.,* Perlman col. 3 ll. 40- 45). Therefore, merging the outdated CRL with an optimal CRL results in a CRL that contains all of the unexpired certificates that should not be honored as opposed to a CRL (*i.e.*, a delta CRL) that reflects changes made between two CRLs (*See, e.g.,* Instant Specification p.5 ll. 1-2). Thus, Perlman does not explicitly or impliedly disclose a method for merging a plurality of delta CRLs, as asserted by the examiner.

In view of the above, Perlman does not support the rejection of amended claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10-12, and 14-16 are allowable for at least the same reasons. A withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of amended claim 17, the Examiner asserts that Perlman discloses a CRL identifier comprising a sequentially assigned number by citing Perlman column 3, lines 45-48. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Column 3 lines 45-48 states, "[s]ignificantly, the RS generates an optimal CRL for its reply that contains all, part, or none of the current CRL revoked certificate serial numbers." (*See* Perlman col. 3, ll. 45-48). As the words "serial numbers" is modified by the word "certificate" and not "the current CRL", the unique identifier Perlman discloses is associated with the certificate, *not* the CRL. Subsequently, Perlman does not teach or suggest using a sequentially assigned number associated with the CRL.

Moreover, in order to determine the latest stored CRL of a server, Perlman relies on the use of timestamps associated with the certificates. Specifically, one of the parameters for determining the optimal CRL as defined by Perlman is the timestamp of the last revoked certificate in the CRL that the server node stores. (*See, e.g.,* Perlman col. 7, ll. 25-30). The database must then be queried to determine all of the entries that have a later timestamp. (*See, e.g.,* Perlman col. 8, ll. 60-67). If Perlman used a sequentially assigned number associated with the CRL, which Perlman does not, then Perlman would merely have to compare the version number stored with the CRL with the version stored in the database. Thus, Perlman does not teach or suggest using a sequentially assigned number associated with the CRL.

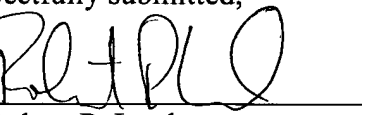
In view of the above, Perlman does not support the rejection of amended claim 17. A withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/534001).

Dated: March 31, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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